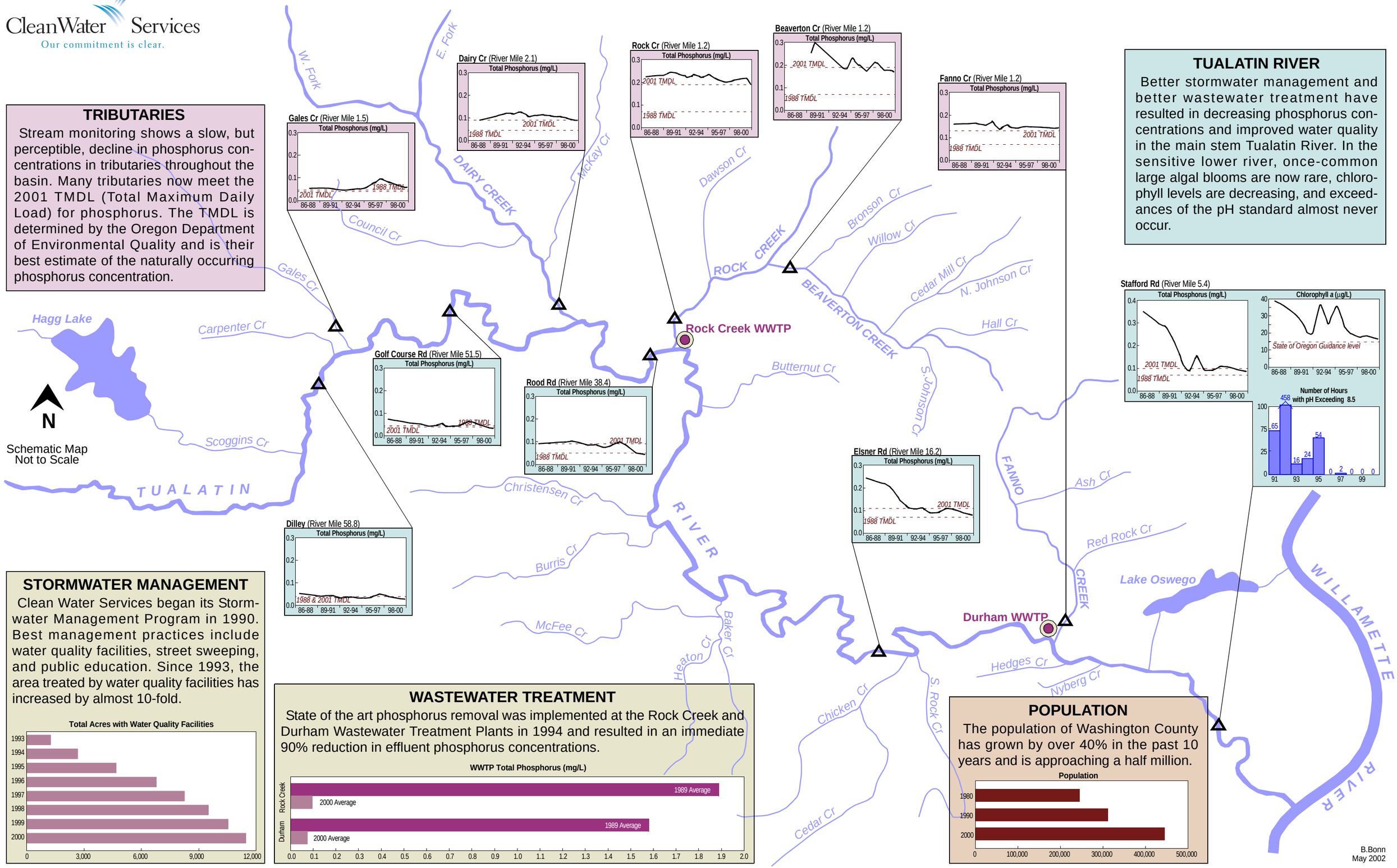
PHOSPHORUS LEVELS DECLINING AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVING IN TUALATIN RIVER BASIN

Clean Water Services
Our commitment is clear.

TRIBUTARIES

Stream monitoring shows a slow, but perceptible, decline in phosphorus concentrations in tributaries throughout the basin. Many tributaries now meet the 2001 TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for phosphorus. The TMDL is determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and is their best estimate of the naturally occurring phosphorus concentration.



TUALATIN RIVER

Better stormwater management and better wastewater treatment have resulted in decreasing phosphorus concentrations and improved water quality in the main stem Tualatin River. In the sensitive lower river, once-common large algal blooms are now rare, chlorophyll levels are decreasing, and exceedances of the pH standard almost never occur.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Clean Water Services began its Stormwater Management Program in 1990. Best management practices include water quality facilities, street sweeping, and public education. Since 1993, the area treated by water quality facilities has increased by almost 10-fold.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

State of the art phosphorus removal was implemented at the Rock Creek and Durham Wastewater Treatment Plants in 1994 and resulted in an immediate 90% reduction in effluent phosphorus concentrations.

POPULATION

The population of Washington County has grown by over 40% in the past 10 years and is approaching a half million.

B.Bonn
May 2002